1989

SB comments

Whole Earth Institute: The research and development arm of the Point Foundation

Out of the need to fund new research projects and to continue the good work of the Point Foundation, the Whole Earth Insitiute is guided by these goals :

0 to support the research and development of new projects undertaken by Whole Earth Review and its contributing editors. (Projects for 1989 include 2 books; Restoration and The Global Teenager.)

0 to continue incubating , cultivating and disseminating the work and new ideas of free-lance scientists which promote a greater awareness of global interdependence.

0 to continue reporting the results of hands-on experiments undertaken by individuals, neighborhoods and communities with potential impact on global issues.

0 to work towards building a global consensus on the environment..

0 to make new ideas and cultural innovations assessible to the greatest number of people through publications, conferences and special events.

Advisors

A loosely knit network of friends, contributors and maniacal subscribers who help guide Institute directions.

James Lovelock
Roy Rappaport
Bruce Cates
Joshua Mailman
Nancy Ramsey
Julian Price
Ursula LeGuin
Theodora Kroeber
Paul Ehrlich
Danielle Mitterand
Peter Behr
Laura Nader
Marlon Brando
Lawrence Ferlinghetti

This seems meaningless

1989-90 Projects

Restoration: The Science of Restoring the Natural Environment

As the initial project of the WEI we chose the subject of ~~planet-healing--more~~ specifically the practice of ecological restoration around the world. David Wingate's tale of saving a bird species and restoring an island in Bermuda (the cover story of the Fall '88 Whole Earth Review) is but one of many fascinating stories waiting to be told.

Ecological restoration is a young science, full of first-time attempts, plenty of mistakes, and a learning curve that is steep. It's an unpublicized subject rich with potential and, since most of the problems we've been pointing at during the past twenty odd years have not gone away, one that is sorely needed. Restoration will offer our readers a compendium of small-scale success stories.

There are people all over the ~~planet~~ learning how to heal the ecological webs that sustain us. They are rebuilding marshes, restoring streambanks and spawning grounds in ~~the~~ logged-~~out~~ woods, getting grass to grow next to abandoned smelters, and planting trees to halt the spread of deserts. Many of these projects are small and very local. While it is clear that nobody has ever repaired a natural system as well as Mother Nature evolved it in the first place, it is equally apparent that given half a chance, natural systems possess potential for restoring themselves. The webs do knit back together, although we barely know how.

We think a well researched book devoted to the people working on these projects is important, and we are ~~asking~~ you now for financial support to make it happen. Since many of the doers in this field have dirty fingernails, heads full of experience and little written down, seed money and lead time for researching and gathering these stories is essential.

~~Let us know what you think.~~ If you know of restoration projects in your own neighborhoods, please tell us who to contact for more information. Think of it as a small stone that can make big ripples.

The Global Teenager

Within the next five years one half of the humans on earth will be under the age of 20. These billions of teenagers will increasingly listen to the same popular music, see the same movies and tv shows, study the same science, and have the same heroes, no matter where they live. Last time teenagers drove a modern culture, we had the 60's. This book looks into the world of the global teenager and asks them what kind of future they have in store for us.

Other Projects (Needs staff input)